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Great Britain Combat Estimate 1940 & 1941

O-Files

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C O P Y

May 15, 1941
(Revised as of above date.
As changes occur hereafter
they will be indicated by
date on page revised.)

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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND *

Combat Estimate

I. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

1. Coordination of National Defense.

a. Military Forces. The military forces of the nation consist of the Army, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy, the three services functioning under separate and coordinate ministries, namely, the War Office, the Air Ministry and the Admiralty, respectively. These ministries are coordinated by the War Cabinet. See paragraph 1 c, and Appendix 1, Organization of the War Office.

b. Supreme Command. Supreme Command of the military forces is vested in the Crown but is exercised by the Government through the respective ministries.

c. War Cabinet. On September 3, 1939, the date of the declaration of war, a War Cabinet was formed to provide for the expeditious prosecution of the war. Initially it consisted of nine members with the Prime Minister as the head. Since that time there have been numerous changes in its composition, but at this time it consists of the following:

Prime Minister and Minister of Defense
Minister of State (responsible for all armament
production.)

Lord Privy Seal
Lord President of the Council
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Minister Without Portfolio
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Minister of Labour and National Service.

* This estimate includes the British military forces in Crown Colonies and Egypt but not in India (except where specifically stated) nor in the Dominions. Combat Estimates for 1937 have been published for India, Canada and Australia. Estimates for Ireland (Irish Free State), New Zealand and Union of South Africa are no longer published but are available in manuscript form in the Military Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff.

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Due in part to his office and in part to his dominant personality and wide experience, the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, dominates the War Cabinet and the general conduct of the war. The exact degree to which he relies upon his military advisors is not known but his influence is certainly very great. In effect the War Cabinet supersedes the Committee of Imperial Defence (see following paragraph) and it is basically charged with the conduct of the war, subject to the advice of military and other advisors. In many ways the War Cabinet has taken over the functions of the Committee of Imperial Defence and it is advised by a considerable number of committees, of which the principal ones are the Chiefs of Staff committee, Joint Planning committee, Defence Policy and Requirements committee, and the Principal Supply Officers committee. The War Cabinet has a considerable secretariat of military and civil officers who are responsible for the administrative functioning of the Cabinet. These several committees of the War Cabinet have, themselves, extensive delegated powers. In non-controversial matters not involving questions of policy the various members of a committee, say the three Chiefs of Staff, often agree upon a certain course of action and put it into effect through their offices in the Defence Ministries. More important matters are referred to the War Cabinet for final decision.

d. Committee on Imperial Defence. The Committee of Imperial Defence is an advisory body set up in 1904 to coordinate the policies and plans for national defense. The Prime Minister was the chairman and the three service ministers, their Chiefs of Staff, and a considerable number of other ministers were members. This representative body of high government officials were responsible for the study of defense needs of Great Britain and the Empire with special attention to the requirements of the three services, their coordination with each other and with the Dominions. Most of the work of the Committee was carried out by sub-committees, of which there have been as many as 50. In general these sub-committees were the same as the present

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committees of the War Cabinet. The War Cabinet has taken over most of the functions of the Committee of Imperial Defence and its present status is not precisely known.

g. Ministry of Supply. On July 13, 1939, the Ministry of Supply Act was passed, ending long Parliamentary criticisms that the governmental munitions procurement program was lagging. On the face of the Act it gave the new Ministry wide powers for centralized procurement and control of munitions and raw materials. It made three general provisions:

(1) The powers and duties of the Director-General of Munitions of the War Office were transferred (in August 1939) to the Ministry. This gave the Ministry the responsibility for the manufacture and purchase of supplies for the Army, for further details of which see paragraph 6 g.

(2) The Ministry was given power to buy, manufacture, produce and store any articles required for the public service; except that it could not encroach on the procurement functions of any department of the government without the consent of that department. This exception substantially nullifies the apparent wide procurement powers. Neither the Navy, the Air Force, nor the Air Raids Precautions agencies have given that consent; so that, with the exception of items common to two services, the Ministry procures supplies for the Army only.

(3) The Ministry may make inventories of private stocks of raw and finished materials, may compel deliverance of any article or the carrying out of any work for the public service, and may set maximum prices for raw materials. These wide powers of price and priority control will undoubtedly become the most important functions of the Ministry. During the first days of the war, committees for the control of most raw materials were set up, but details of their functioning are not available. The maximum prices of many raw materials have been fixed at about the price ruling at the time the war started.

f. Ministry of Aircraft Production. Based upon the precedent of the World War, the Ministry of Aircraft Production was organized on

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, 1940 with the responsibility of procuring all military aircraft, together with armament and spare parts for the Royal Air Force and the Naval Air Arm. The Ministry was formed initially by the transfer from the Air Ministry of all procurement agencies. Lord Beaverbrook was made the Minister and he gathered about him large numbers of men in the aircraft industry. Lord Beaverbrook has been the driving force in this Ministry and there have been no considerable complaints of deficiencies in aircraft. However, there has apparently been no large increase in the monthly rates of production.

II. ARMY

2. Personnel.

a. Composition. At the declaration of war in 1939 the British Army consisted of the Regular Army, the Territorial Army (corresponding to our National Guard), and several reserve forces. Soon thereafter all elements were consolidated into a single "British Army" and the distinctions between these several elements have vanished except for certain legal distinctions.

b. General Composition. In general the British Army consists of the Home Forces, the Antiaircraft Command, the British Forces in the Middle East, and a considerable number of scattered commands throughout the world. These elements are all commanded directly from the War Office.

c. The Home Forces. The Home Force, with its own general headquarters, consists of all field forces located in the United Kingdom and is responsible for the defense of the British Isles and consists of all corps, divisions and separate units assigned for the defense of Great Britain against invasion. The Home Guard is within this command.

d. The Home Guard. The Home Guard was organized hastily in May, 1940 as the Local Defence Volunteers. It consists of volunteer, unpaid, part-time troops formed into units for the local defence of communities,

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air fields and communications and for general observation purposes. Its members are regularly enrolled in the military forces and would come to full-time duty in case of invasion. Equipment consists of little but rifles, of which a portion of the members have no supply. They have little transportation and can be depended upon only for local defense purposes.

3. Organization.

a. Command. The command of the Army is exercised by the Army Council with the following members:

President	Secretary of State for War.
Vice-President	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War.
First Military Member	Chief of the Imperial General Staff
Second Military Member	Adjutant-General to the Forces
Third Military Member	Quarter-Master-General to the Forces
Fourth Military Member	Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff
Civil Member	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War
Finance Member	Financial Secretary of the War Office
Secretary	Director-General of Army Requirements
	Permanent Under-Secretary of State for war.

The Army Council exercises the command of the Army and all orders are issued in its name. In time of peace its formal meetings were rare but informal meetings, attended by the members concerned with the subjects at hand, are frequently held. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, as the senior military member, has some of the attributes of our own Chief of Staff, but in general is coordinate with the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General. This system of command tends to give considerable independent authority to the separate departments that are responsible only to the Secretary of State for War through the Army Council.

b. Departmental Functions. The War Office is divided into separate coordinate departments responsible to the Secretary of State for War through the Army Council. The functions of the principal departments are as follows:

(1) The Imperial General Staff. The Department of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff is basically concerned with military policy, which includes war planning, training, historical research and military

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intelligence. It is divided into the six directorates of Military Operations and Plans, Military Intelligence, Staff Duties, Military Training, Anti-Aircraft and Coast Defence, and Armoured Fighting Vehicles. The inspectors of the Royal Army Service Corps, of Physical Training, of Chemical Warfare, of Passive Air Defence and of the Training Corps, each with one General Staff officer, are attached to the Military Training Directorate and serve as inspectors and advisers in their respective fields.

(2) Adjutant-General. The Department of the Adjutant-General to the Forces is concerned with personnel, to include recruiting, organization, administration, military discipline and medical services. In general its functions combine those of G-1, the Adjutant General, the Surgeon General and the Judge Advocate General in our service.

(3) Quarter-Master-General. The Department of the Quarter-Master-General is concerned with quartering the Army, road, railway and sea transport, construction and maintenance of buildings and fortifications, supply of food, forage and fuel, and remount and veterinary service. In general its functions include those of G-4 and some of those of the Quarter-Master-General and the Chief of Engineers in our service.

(4) Director-General of Army Requirements. The department of the Director-General of Army Requirements is concerned with formulating Army material requirements and transmitting them to and coordinating them with the Ministry of Supply.

(5) Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War. The Department of the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War is charged with the conduct of War Office business, including all finance and accounting, and with administration of the Chaplain's Department and the Pay Corps. This conservative civilian department, because of its powers of vote in financial matters, has great influence in the War Office, even in time of war.

c. Territorial Organization. The Army in the United Kingdom is divided into the Aldershot Command, the Eastern Command, the London Area, the Northern Command, the Eastern Command, the Scottish Command, the Southern Command, the Western Command, and the Northern Ireland District.

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These are Territorial Commands and are responsible for all administration and training within the areas and for some combat functions. The Antiaircraft Command operates directly under the War Office and is not responsible to any Territorial Commander.

d. Anti-aircraft Command. All Antiaircraft and searchlight units in the United Kingdom are assigned to the Antiaircraft Command. This Command is divided into at least two Antiaircraft Corps, each of which consists of three or more Antiaircraft Divisions. While these units bear the names of combat organizations, they are in fact Territorial Commands and each Antiaircraft Division is responsible for the ground antiaircraft defense of a certain territory. As such the number of regiments and battalions assigned thereto varies with the tactical requirements and there is no standard organization for a division. It is estimated that the total strength of the Command exceed 300,000.

e. Cavalry Division. There is one Horse Cavalry Division in the British Army. This Division has been organized since the present war started and its exact organization is not known. It is stationed in Palestine.

f. Infantry Division. An Infantry Division consists of three Infantry Brigades of three Rifle (light machine gun) Battalions, three Field Artillery Regiments, one Antitank Artillery Regiment, one Light Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment, one Heavy Machine Gun Battalion, one Divisional Reconnaissance Battalion, with Signals, Army Service Corps, Engineer, Army Medical Corps, and Provost Units. The war strength is approximately 16,300. The basic combat unit is the Infantry Brigade that has attached to it for combat a Defense Platoon of 39 mm, one Antitank Battery, one Antiaircraft Battery, and a mobile Ordnance and Motor Repair Unit. The Division is equipped

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with approximately 12,000 rifles, 750 Bren light machine guns, 400 caliber .55 antitank rifles, 48 two-pdr. antitank guns, 48 40-mm. Bofors antiaircraft guns, 72 - 25 pdr. gun-howitzers, 20 three-inch trench mortars, 126 two-inch trench mortars, 48 Vickers medium machine guns and 160 Bren machine gun carriers. The Division is completely motorized with all transport vehicles wheeled. There is not enough transportation to transport all future troops. It will be noted that this Division does not include any medium artillery, tanks, or gas units. When the mission requires it, the Division will be reinforced as required, which will increase its power but decrease its mobility. Certain Divisions set up for special purposes have organizations that vary from the standard Division.

G. Armoured Division. An Armoured Division consists of two Armoured Brigades, a Support Group, a Divisional Engineer unit and Administrative services. An Armoured Brigade consists of three Armoured Regiments and one Infantry Motor Battalion. The Armoured Regiments are each equipped with about 30 cruiser tanks and 10 scout cars. The Motor Battalion is equipped with 14 scout cars and 44 Bren machine gun carriers. The Support Group consists of one motorized Infantry Battalion, a Motorized Artillery Regiment with 24-25 pdr. gun, an Antitank Regiment with 36 two-pdr. antitank guns, and a light Anti-aircraft Regiment with 36 Bofors light antiaircraft guns.

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h. Combatant Army. The following are the combatant arms in the British Army:

(1) Air Force. There is no Air Force in the Army proper. The Army Cooperation Command of the Royal Air Force was organized in December, 1940, to provide the air support for the field forces. It consists of all Army Cooperation squadrons in the British Isles as well as any fighter and bomber squadrons assigned from time to time for this purpose.

(2) Artillery. All artillery in the British Army is assigned to the Royal Regiment of Artillery, which is really the Artillery Arm. This Regiment is divided into the Field Branch, consisting of all horse, field, mountain, medium and mobile heavy regiments and the Coast Defense and Antiaircraft Branch, the title of which explains its composition. Antiaircraft searchlights, formerly manned by Engineer troops, are now in the Artillery. The basic combat unit of the Artillery is the Regiment. The field regiment consists of a headquarters and two batteries (corresponding to our battalion), each of which consists of three troops (our battery) of four guns. Horse, medium, and heavy regiments ordinarily consist of two batteries of two troops each.

(3) Cavalry. The Cavalry consists of two Guards regiments and one horse Cavalry Division in Palestine formed from territorial units. Exact organizations are not now known.

(4) Armoured Corps. In April, 1939, all mechanized Cavalry and the Royal Tank Regiment were amalgamated to form the Royal Armoured Corps. Cavalry and Tank units at this time are used interchangeably and the organizations generally have the same strength and organization. There are two general types of Armoured units. The first is the Infantry Tank Regiment with the mission of close support of Infantry assault units. An Infantry Tank Regiment consists of a headquarters and two battalions, each consisting of three troops. The basic mechanized unit of an Armoured Division is the Armoured regiment consisting of a head-

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quarters, a headquarters squadron and three Armoured squadrons, each consisting of four troops of three cruiser tanks each.

(5) Chemical Warfare. There is no Chemical Warfare branch as such and no Chemical Warfare troops. Experimental work in this field is carried out by the Chemical Defense Committee and the Chemical Defense Research Department under the general supervision of the War Office. Certain Engineer troops have Chemical Warfare functions in addition to their normal assignments.

(6) Engineers. The Royal Engineers are organized to carry out work of a technical nature requiring the use of special tools or the possession of technical skill. Officers when first commissioned receive special engineering training and a large number of the enlisted men are tradesmen (corresponding generally to specialists in our service). The corps is divided into three main branches. Field and Fortress units provide troops for the engineer services of combat units and for seacoast fortresses. The divisional Engineers of an Infantry Division consist of a field park company and three field companies, with a total strength of about 940 men. The divisional Engineers of an Armoured Division are organized in a similar manner except that there are but two field squadrons. The Transportation branch operates military railways in a theater of operations. The Works Services branch is charged with the construction and maintenance of all buildings and fortifications and for the supply of water and electricity. Staff officers from this branch are available to commanders but there are no units in this branch. In the War Office this service is in the Department of the Quartermaster General.

(7) Infantry. The Infantry of the British Army is organized into five Foot Guards Regiments and 64 regiments of the line. However, an Infantry Regiment is a parent organization only and has no tactical functions. In time of peace most regiments consisted of two regular Army battalions and from two to five Territorial battalions. These

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almost never served together but the Regular battalions had a training depot in common. The Infantry battalion is the basic combat unit and in time of war newly organized battalions are assigned to a regiment, generally based upon geographical origin. Thus a regiment may have an indefinite number of battalions. During the World War this number sometimes was as high as 35. Infantry battalions are assigned indiscriminately to Infantry brigades without reference to regiment designation. There are three general types of battalions:

(a) Rifle (LMG) Battalion. The rifle battalion organization is based on the Bren caliber .303 light machine gun. This battalion has motorized transport and a war strength of 22 officers and 670 men, to which may be added a total of 77 enlisted men as first reinforcements to be left at the base. The battalion consists of a headquarters, a headquarters company and four rifle companies. A rifle company consists of three officers, three warrant officers, and 94 enlisted men. The Headquarters Company consists of a signal platoon, a mortar platoon with two 3-inch mortars, and antiaircraft platoon with four antiaircraft light machine guns, a carrier platoon with ten Bren machine gun carriers, a pioneer platoon, and an administrative platoon. A rifle company consists of three rifle platoons, each equipped with one 2-inch mortar and three Bren light machine guns. Each section in the battalion carries one caliber .55 antitank rifle.

(b) Heavy Machine Gun Battalion. The heavy machine gun is based on the caliber .303 Vickers heavy machine gun. It consists of a headquarters and four machine gun companies, each of 12 guns formed into three platoons. The battalion is completely motorized and all personnel are carried in motor transport. The war strength is 21 officers, 16 warrant officers and 658 enlisted men.

(c) Motor Battalion. The Motor Battalion is assigned to the Support Group of the Armoured Division. It consists of a headquarters

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company and four motor companies, each of one scout platoon, of three scout sections and three motor platoons of three motor sections each. The battalion is wholly motorized with transport for all personnel. Its equipment is based upon the Bren light machine gun. Its strength is 25 officers, 15 warrant officers and 716 enlisted men.

(8) Corps of Signals. The Royal Corps of Signals is responsible for signal communication in the British Army. The divisional signals of an Infantry Division consists of 18 officers, 8 warrant officers and 483 enlisted men.

(9) Colonial and Indian Troops. A very considerable number of native colonial and Indian troops are now serving with the British Army in the Middle East, the Far East and in the colonies. They are mostly Infantry troops although some are Artillery.

1. Non-Combatant Branches.

(1) Medical Corps. The Royal Army Medical Corps provides the medical service in the British Army. In the Infantry Division there are three Field Ambulances and one Field Hygiene Section with a total of 37 officers, 9 warrant officers and 724 enlisted men.

(2) Army Service Corps. The Royal Army Service Corps is responsible for the storage and issue of fuel, light, rations, and general supplies, for transportation including the repair of vehicles assigned thereto, and for the provision and repair of barracks and quarters. The Service Corps units in the Infantry Division consist of one ammunition company, one petrol company and one supply column.

(3) Ordnance Corps. The Royal Army Ordnance Corps supplies and maintains barrack, camp and warlike stores, clothing and vehicles other than those driven by personnel of the Army Service Corps. The term "warlike stores" includes weapons, ammunitions and electrical, bridging and gas defense equipment. There are no Ordnance units within the Infantry Division, the corps providing the necessary service therefor.

(4) Educational Corps. The Army Educational Corps provides adult general education for enlisted men and schooling for service

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children where other facilities do not exist.

(5) Other Branches. There are in addition the following branches whose functions are indicated by their names:

Corps of Military Police
Royal Army Chaplain's Department
Royal Army Pay Corps
Royal Army Veterinary Corps
Army Dental Corps

4. Equipment.

a. Individual. The individual equipment of officers includes a revolver, caliber .38, 18 rounds of ammunition, steel helmet, gas mask, rations and water. The Infantry rifleman is equipped with a rifle, caliber .303, bayonet, 70 rounds of ammunition, steel helmet, gas mask, rations in ration bag, water in water bottle, and equipment in a haversack and web pack. The greatcoat is not carried but borne in organisation transport. One pair of socks is the only clothing not worn. The maximum weight of worn and carried equipment totals 55 pounds. The arms and equipment of enlisted men in other branches vary widely.

b. Organizational. Much of the organizational equipment of the British Army is now in process of being changed from World War to modern types. In general it can be said that Regular Army units now have this new equipment but that Territorial units are only now receiving it in any quantity. It seems probable that the entry of certain Territorial divisions into action will be determined by the availability of this equipment. An exception to the above is that most, if not all, Territorial anti-aircraft units have now received modern equipment.

(1) Infantry Band Arms. Riflemen are armed with Lee-Enfield rifle, caliber .303, weighing 8 lbs., 10½ oz., empty, with a sword-bayonet. Its maximum muzzle velocity is 2,400 f.s. The standard pistol is a 6-shot revolver, caliber .38.

(2) Machine Guns. The caliber .303 Vickers heavy machine gun, a World War type, is the basic weapon of the heavy machine gun battalion.

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The Bren light machine gun is the divisional automatic weapon. Of Czechoslovakian design, it was adopted as standard in 1935 and at present is in large scale production. It is caliber .303, is gas operated, is 45 inches long, weighs 21 pounds, and has a rate of fire of 500 rounds per minute. Ammunition is fed from a curved magazine carrying 30 rounds extending above the chamber. It is normally fired from a bipod, but may be mounted on a tripod, an antiaircraft mount or on an armored automotive carrier. See paragraph 3 d (7) for rate of issue.

(3) Antitank Gun. Two types of antitank guns are used. The Boys antitank rifle is an ordinary bolt action magazine rifle, caliber .55, firing a 930 grain armor piercing bullet at an undisclosed muzzle velocity probably about 3,000 f.s. It is claimed that it will perforate 3/4-inch armor at 1,000 yards at an angle of 45°. Its rate of issue is one to each platoon or similar unit commanded by a subaltern. The Vickers-Armstrong 2-pounder antitank gun is a semi-automatic, caliber 40-mm. (1.57-inch) weapon with a muzzle velocity of 2,400 - 2,600 f.s., and a rate of fire of 22 shots per minute. It is carried on two rubber-tired wheels, towed by a 3/4-ton truck. For firing it is lowered to three outriggers. See paragraph 3 d (2) (e) for rate of issue.

(4) Antiaircraft Cannon. Light antiaircraft batteries are equipped with the Bofors 40-mm. automatic cannon, some of which were purchased in Sweden and the remainder manufactured under patent in Britain. This cannon has an elevation of from minus five to plus 90 degrees, 360-degree traverse, and fires a high explosive tracer shell weighing two pounds at a muzzle velocity of 2950 feet-seconds. The rate of fire is from 100 to 120 rounds a minute.

(5) Antiaircraft Gun. The 3.7-inch antiaircraft gun is the standard equipment of mobile antiaircraft gun batteries for home defense and with the Field Forces. It has an elevation range from minus ten to

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plus 80 degrees, 360-degree traverse, and fires a 28-pound high explosive projectile at a muzzle velocity of 2600 foot-seconds. It weighs 21,280 pounds in the travelling position. In addition, there is a semi-mobile 4.45" AA gun. This gun has an elevation range of from minus five to plus 90 degrees, 360-degree traverse, and fires a 55-pound projectile at a muzzle velocity of about 2400 foot-seconds. It has a firing rate of from eight to ten rounds a minute. This gun can be jacked onto two two-wheeled bogies for movement from one position to another, but must be fired from a previously prepared concrete base. In the firing position it weighs about 30,000 pounds.

(6) Antiaircraft fire control equipment. Vickers and Sperry directors are both standard equipment. Sperry units manufactured in the United States have been delivered continuously since May, 1938. It is estimated that all units are now equipped with modern directors. The standard height finder is a self-contained instrument of the coincidence type.

(7) Antiaircraft searchlights and sound locators. The 90-cm. (35.5-in.) antiaircraft searchlight is the standard, being provided in two types, one for hand and one for remote control. At least three types of sound locators are standard. The two latest type each have four paraboloid horns with a base of over five feet, with acoustic correctors and a system of remote control of the searchlight making the use of intermediary comparators unnecessary.

(8) Field Artillery weapons. The following tabulation contains data pertaining to the principal Field Artillery weapons, although there are minor variations between different models of the same gun:

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Type	Cal. Ins.	M.V. f.s.	Wt. proj. lbs.	Max. elev.	Max. range yards	Normal assignment
13-pounder gun	3	1,700	12½	14°	8,700	Horse
18-pounder gun	3.3	1,615	18½	37½°	9,400	Divisional (obsolete)
25-pounder gun	3.45	1,500	25	37½°	12,000	Divisional (standard)
3.7-inch howitzer	3.7	973	20	40°	6,000	Horse
4.5-inch howitzer	4.5	1,000	35	45°	6,800	Divisional
60-pounder gun	5	2,130	60	35°	16,000	Corps or Army
6-inch howitzer	6	1,400	86	45°	11,400	ditto
6-inch gun	6	2,350	100	38°	19,200	ditto
8-inch howitzer	8	1,500	200	45°	12,400	ditto
9.2-inch howitzer	9.2	1,600	380	50°	13,935	ditto

Except for the 25-pounder gun all of these weapons are World War types of which there are large quantities on hand. Many of these issued to organizations have been equipped with high speed wheels with pneumatic tires.

(9) Artillery prime movers. The standard prime movers now being procured are 1½-ton, six-wheeled, Morris trucks for light and 3-ton, six-wheeled, Seammell trucks for medium artillery. However, there are on hand a considerable number of full tracked tractors, called Dragons, which are still used. The light Dragon, with a chassis similar to that of older light tanks, is used for light artillery; while the Dragon, with a chassis similar to that of a medium tank, is used for medium artillery. The change to wheeled prime movers was due to lessened cost and satisfactory performance.

(10) Trench mortars. Infantry battalions are equipped with 2-inch and 3-inch trench mortars, both muzzle loading and both new weapons. The 2-inch mortar weighs about 20 pounds and fires a two-pound high explosive or smoke projectile with a maximum range of 900 yards. The 3-inch mortar fires a 10-pound high explosive or smoke projectile with a maximum range of 1,600 yards. It is transported in three loads with a total weight of 126 pounds.

(11) Tanks. The British now employ three general types of tanks:

(a) Light Tanks. All light tanks are obsolete and are

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being used only for local defense of airdromes and similar purposes. The latest light tank is the Mark VII Vickers light tank weighing 7.84 tons and carrying one 40-mm. gun, one 7.92-mm. machine gun and two 4-inch smoke dischargers. Its main armor is on the 14-mm. basis. The Mark VI light tank weighing six tons loaded and carrying caliber .50 and one caliber .303 machine gun is the vehicle of which the largest number have been produced.

(b) Cruiser tank. The cruiser tank is the standard equipment for armored divisions. Several models are in production or use but in general their weight is about 15 tons and main armor from 14 - 30 - mm., speed about 20 miles an hour and they are armed with one 40-mm. and two to three caliber .303.

(c) Infantry tank. The Infantry tank is the standard equipment for Infantry tank battalions. More than one model is in use but later models have a weight of about 25 tons, main armor about 60-mm. and carrying the same armament as a cruiser tank.

(12) Machine gun carriers. The machine gun carrier No. 2 Mark I is a full track vehicle with a chassis in general similar to that of the light tank Mark VI. Unloaded it weighs about $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons, is powered with a Ford V-8, 30 h.p. water-cooled engine and has a maximum road and cross country speed of 30 and 20 m.p.h., respectively. Armor is about 5/16-inch. Its basic armament is one Bren light machine gun mounted to fire to the front; but another machine gun or a caliber .55 antitank gun may be carried dismounted in the rear. The crew is three.

(13) Armored cars. A limited number of obsolescent types of armored cars are in the hands of Cavalry units in Egypt and Iraq. Apparently no more are to be purchased.

(14) Engineer equipment. Engineer troops are armed as Infantry. Special Engineer equipment, much of it of post-war design, is available in reasonable quantities. More important items are special kapok foot-

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bridges for Infantry use, motorized pontoon bridge trains, and special box girder bridges for tanks.

(15) Chemical Warfare equipment. An adequate number of service gas masks are on hand and protective clothing is available. Little is known of equipment for offensive action, but it is believed that considerable planning has been done, and that the use of chemicals by artillery shell, trench mortar or by spraying from aircraft could be carried out if necessary.

(16) Motor transport. With extremely limited exceptions all transportation of the British Army is motorized.

(17) Standard motor vehicles. Are excellent in quality and reasonably adequate in quantity issues.

5. Training, efficiency and morale.

a. Training.

(1) Military school system. All peacetime schools as such have suspended for the duration of the war. In their place a very extensive school system has been inaugurated for the training of war personnel. In general these schools provide short courses for the training of officers and enlisted men in specialized subjects. A complete list of schools is available in the Military Intelligence Division.

(2) Education and Training of Officers. In time of peace there was a reasonably complete system of military education for officers culminating in the Staff College for selected officers. Wartime training has been limited to specialized instruction in schools and troop training with organizations. Practically all junior officers are Reserves or Territorials and their scholastic instruction has been limited. However most of those who have been assigned to organizations for a considerable period of time are well trained in command and tactics of the organization to which assigned.

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(3) Education and Training of Enlisted Men. The standards of training of the enlisted men of the tactical organizations is very high. This training is in most cases initiated by a course of 16 weeks in a training depot where a very complete course of recruitment training is given. All enlisted men, including those to be assigned to the services, complete this period of training. Upon completion of this training men are assigned to combat organizations. Within combat organization training and discipline are very complete. The demonstrated physical qualities of the German troops during the Flanders campaign provided a great lesson for the British, and present training makes a particular point of physical hardness and thorough discipline.

(4) Unit and Combined Training. Tactical training within divisions is continuous, ranging all the way from battalion problems to regimental exercises. Due to the dispositions to defend against invasion exercises involving more than one division are somewhat unusual restricted to special situations.

b. Promotion of Officers. In time of peace combatant officers were promoted to the ranks of lieutenant, captain and major after three, eight and 17 years' service, respectively. Promotion to all higher ranks was by selection. Retirement was mandatory at ages ranging from 47 for majors and below to 60 for generals and lieutenant generals. Wartime systems of promotion are, as far as is known, not definitely formulated and are decentralized largely to subordinate commands.

c. Efficiency.

(1) Officers. British Army officers have a high esprit de corps and a tradition of distinguished service in combat, and a tenacity that serves them particularly well in adversity. The professional qualifications of the better trained commanders and staff officers are excellent but probably somewhat inferior to those of the best trained continental armies. The qualifications of the wartime officers vary greatly, but the efficiency of a considerable portion of the junior officers is high.

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(2) Men. The standard of training of the enlisted men of the British combat organizations is probably higher now than at any wartime period. Since the evacuation from Dunkirk and the absence of casualties this high standard of training has been made possible.

d. Morale. The morale of the British Army under present conditions is extremely high, arising from the British characteristics of courage, tenacity and self-reliance and aided by the constant threat of invasion. A long continued period of waiting on the defensive possibly will lower this morale.

6. Mobilization.

a. Methods of Recruitment.

(1) Officers. While not a small proportion of the officers in the British Army are pre-war Regular officers, the mass of them came into the service from the Territorial Army or from Reserve. At the outbreak of war the granting of permanent commissions in the Army was stopped except for graduates of the Cadet Colleges and other qualified applicants. When the initial increases in officers due to mobilization had been taken care of, commissions were given only to enlisted men recommended by their commanding officers and duly qualified at officers' training schools.

(2) Men. Pre-war enlistment was voluntary, except that in May, 1939, a few men were conscripted for a six months' period of training. At the outbreak of war the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, 1939, was passed making all male citizens between the ages of 18 and 41, both years inclusive, liable for military service. Calls from this registration are made by age groups as required. There have been large exemptions on account of exempted occupations, physical conditions, and other reasons. A limited number of volunteer enlistments were accepted in the early months of the war.

b. Expansion of Units. Just before the present war all existing

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Regular and Territorial units were brought as nearly as possible to war strength by calling up Reserves and by voluntary enlistments. Since that time all expansion and replacements have been taken from conscript forces.

c. Progress of Supply in the Army. The rate of mobilization has been in large part determined by supply problems. The large losses of heavy materiel at Dunkirk and the later losses in Greece accentuate the problem of supply.

d. Procurement of Supplies.

At the present time all supplies for the Army are procured by the Ministry of Supply in accordance with requirements formulated in the Army and transmitted to the department for supply requirements.